

Chapter 18

SODDING

Introduction. Sod is grass which is cut from a well established field of grass and placed at other locations. The locations at which sod is placed is determined by:

- * plans.
- * as directed by Project Engineer.

The Specifications detail two types of sod; nursery sod and sod. The difference between the two will be discussed later. Nursery sod and sod are generally placed at the following locations:

- * Slopes steeper than 2 to 1.
- * Slopes where runoff from the adjacent property can cause erosion.
- * In front of dwellings.
- * In ditches with a grade of 1% to 3%.
- * Adjacent to curbs, sidewalks, inlets, end sections, paved side ditch, etc.
- * In areas where mulch seeding will not serve satisfactorily.

This chapter will highlight the specifications that the Certified Technician should be aware of. These specifications include:

- * Preparation of ground before sodding.
- * Laying sod.
- * Watering sod
- * Limitations.
- * Measurement and payment.
- * Acceptance of sod.

Preparation of Ground Before Sodding. The area to be sodded shall be smooth, uniform, and shall be in accordance with the required cross section. Surfaces prepared for sod shall be of sufficient depth below unseated areas that newly laid sod shall be in accordance with the surrounding surface.

For those areas, which shall be covered with topsoil, the procedure for the application of topsoil shall be in accordance with 621.04.

After the area has been prepared for sod, fertilizer shall be applied at the rate of 400 lb/acre. The surface shall be loosened to a depth of 1 to 2 in. and then raked before the sod is placed. All clods, lumps, boulders, or waste material shall be removed satisfactorily.

In areas where the above method of preparation is impracticable, a different method may be approved.

Notching for sod should be of sufficient depth that newly laid sod be level with the surrounding soil surface. Notching eliminates the possibility of the sod edges from drying out and dying.

Notching should be preformed when sodding will lay adjacent:

- * to the surrounding soil.
- * to sidewalk and curb.
- * to existing sod.
- * to pavement.

Notching is not needed along:

- * paved side ditch
- * end sections and graded box end sections
- * curbs along slope walls

Laying Sod. Sod strips shall be laid carefully by hand in the designated direction. The sod shall be fitted to the surrounding grade and fixed objects. The sod strips shall be butted together closely to avoid open joints. Overlapping of sod will not be permitted. After laying and initial watering, the sod shall be tamped or rolled as directed to ensure contact with the soil underneath and shall be in accordance with the surrounding surface. After compaction, the sod shall present a smooth even surface free from lumps and depressions. On slopes of 3:1, or flatter, the use of broken sod strips will be permitted. Where broken pieces are laid, no overlaps will be allowed.

Sod placed in ditches with grades steeper than 1 % and on slopes 3: 1 and steeper shall be pegged. The pegs shall be spaced not over 2 ft apart in each strip measured lengthwise of the strip. Pegs shall be driven down until no more than 1 in. protrudes above the surface of the sod. Grades and slopes flatter than specified herein shall be pegged as directed.

Pegs shall be wood at least 0.5 in. by 0.075 in. by 12 in. In lieu of pegs, T - shaped wire pins may be used. The pins shall be machine bent from 8 gage low carbon steel with a minimum of a 8 in. leg, a 4 in. head, and a 1 in. secondary drive. Pins shall be driven flush with the top of the sod.

Watering Sod. Sod shall be watered immediately after laying. The amount of watering shall be sufficient to saturate the sod and the upper few inches of the underlying soil. The sod shall be watered once everyday of the first week, once every second day of the second week, once every third day of the third week, and once a week thereafter. Sod shall be maintained for a minimum of four weeks from the time it is laid before being accepted. During periods of ample rainfall, watering may be modified to simulate the above schedule. The requirements of 107.17 shall apply.

Seasonal Limitations. Sod placed during the months of June, July, and August shall be subject to the following conditions:

sod shall be in good, live, growing condition; and

sod shall be placed within 36 hours after cutting and protected from damage during that period .

Winter sodding will be permitted when the temperature is above 35°F. No frozen sod shall be laid and no sod shall be laid on frozen soil. Sod shall be properly protected from drying out and shall be laid within 48 hours after cutting.

Method of Measurement. Sod is measured in place. The measurements taken in the field should be recorded in a field book. If a small contract quantity is involved, an IC 614 may be used. The data placed in the field book should include:

- * A drawing showing location.
- * Date placed.
- * Detailed measurements.
- * Name(s) of personnel doing the measuring.
- * Computation of areas.

The field measurements should be taken to the nearest one half foot. The computation of individual areas should be to the nearest 0.1 square yard. Once the individual areas are totaled the final sum should be rounded to the nearest whole square yard.

Basis of Payment. The sod should be free from all primary noxious weeds. Noxious weeds are:

Canada Thistle	Perennial Peppergrass
Field Bindweed	Perennial Sowthistle
Johnson Grass	Russian Knapweed
Quack Grass	Wild Garlic

Sod is accepted by visual inspection. Acceptance in the field before cutting shall not preclude (i.e. rule out) rejection when delivered to the project site.

Nursery Sod shall meet the requirements above. Nursery sod will be a variety or blend of Kentucky bluegrass. It shall comply with nursery inspections and plant quarantine regulations of the States of origin and. It also shall comply with Federal regulations governing interstate movement of nursery stock. A valid copy of the certification of nursery inspection shall accompany each shipment. The Certified Technician should make sure this certification of nursery inspection is secured from the contractor.

Sodding and Nursery Sodding will be paid for at the contract unit price per square yard complete in place. The accepted quantity of fertilizer furnished and delivered complete in place will be included in the price for sodding. Topsoil will be paid for at the contract price per cubic yard.